

# CASp

## Certified Access Specialist Program



## Implementation Status Report

May, 2006

### Project Status

Enacted in 2003, Senate Bill 262 (Chapter 872, Statutes of 2003) authorized “the State Architect to establish and publicize a program for state certification of access specialists.” This report describes current activities of the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for implementing the California Certified Access Specialist (CASp) Program, which now focuses on (1) finalizing the certification examination; (2) formal rulemaking on program regulations; and (3) operational needs, such as the processing of candidate applications and offering test preparation resources.

## **Certification Classifications and Qualifications**

Senate Bill 262 mandated ad hoc collaboration in the formative stages of program development. The *Implementation Advisory Committee* met throughout 2004, to produce recommendations of criteria for certification of access specialists. The State Architect reviewed these criteria, with subsequent approval in early 2005. These criteria have undergone further development to accommodate two additional types of candidates for certification: (1) access consultants who have been practicing for many years, but at risk of not qualifying for certification per strict satisfaction of educational and/or experience requirements and (2) expanding the classification exclusive to architects so that it now accommodates “credentialed design professionals” which includes interior designers and other designers of the built environment.

## **Examination Development**

DSA retained a test development consultant in early 2005. A key milestone was reached in June 2005 with the completion of a job analysis and test specification for the core body of knowledge of access specialists. The test specification guided development of a pool of several hundred multiple-choice test questions for use in the core exam.

## **Development of Program Regulations**

DSA staff completed draft program regulations in late 2005 with the collaboration of invited outside reviewers. DSA next hosted four regional workshops to receive public comment on the governance and administration of the CASp Program, as proposed in the draft regulations. Staff is currently preparing to initiate a formal rulemaking record on the regulations.

## **Test Preparation Resources**

DSA staff architects assigned to the CASp program have extensive experience in accessibility training and are leading the development of initial DSA Academy accessibility courses, including Access Plan Review, Project Inspection for Accessibility, Facility Surveys and Designing for Accessibility. Many of these courses may be used as effective educational resources for the CASp Program.

## **Public Relations and Program Launch**

Staff is finalizing a comprehensive *Candidate Handbook*, which will describe the step-by-step process for attaining state certification as an Access Specialist. Look for program announcements in the near future on the CASp Program’s web page in the DSA website:

**[www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/CertifiedAccess](http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/CertifiedAccess)**

Division of the State Architect

**Certified Access Specialist Program**

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